

THORNY CREEK;- Thorny Creek, with many small tributaries, heads high up on the southern end of Michael Mountain. It is joined from the West by Little Thorny Creek, and flows south west to a point 0.08 mile south-west of Dilleys Mill where it flows west for a distance of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles, cutting a deep gorge between Thorny Creek and Marlins Mountains, thence in a well entrenched meander in a South-west direction to the Greenbrier River one-half north-east of August. Thorny Creek has a total length of 9.6 miles with a drainage basin area of 19.34 square miles. It has a total fall of 1250 feet with a rate of fall of 130.2 feet per mile. The Little Thorny Creek has a total length of 3.4 miles with a rate of fall per mile of 94.1 feet per mile, and has a drainage area basin of 2.72 square miles. Thorny Creek has the honor of having the the first largest survey made in what is now Pocahontas County, ( was then under the regiee Bath County ) which was made for Thomas Wilson in the year of 1795 and embraced 44,000 acres of land and included practically all the waters of Thorny Creek. The Senica State Forest is situated on the Thorny Creek and The Thorny Creek - Mountain, and contains 11000 acres and is within the bounds of the Thomas Wilson Survey. The Little Thorny Creek has the first small artificial Lake in the County this lake is reached by a good roadway from the site of the old Senica C.C.C. Camp, by crossing a spur of the Thorny Creek Mountain, this Lake contains about 7 acres and about 15 feet deep, This <sup>lake is</sup> equipped with cabins rest rooms and rowe boats, and during the summer season is visited by many tourists. Hundreds of Deer are in the region of the Thorny Creek and The State Game Reserve. The first settlers on the Thorny Creek found the bottoms to be covered with the white Thorn Trees and thereby named it "Thorny Creek". Dilleys Flour Mill is situated on the Thorny Creek. ( Now out of Use )

KNAPPS CREEK:- KNAPPS Creek is the Greenbrier Rivers largest and most important tributary in Pocahontas County. It has its source high up in the Allegheny Mountain near the State line , and near the top of the Allegheny Mountain five miles east of the Village of Frost. It flows in a south west direction across the Upper Devonian ( Geologically Speaking ) sandstones and shales to the Village Of Frost , where it is forced to swing to the south because of the Browns Mountain and the Michael uplift . From this point it follows the less resistant Middle Devonian shales, and passes through some of the best farm land to be found in Pocahontas County , to where it is joined by Laurel-Creek and its tributaries from an oposite direction near Minnehaha Springs, and from there it swings north-west to cut a deep gorge through these ranges to join the Greenbrier River at Marlinton . It has a total length of 26.8 miles as it meanders in its natural course , It has an air-line distance of 17.76 miles, and has a total fall of 1560 feet , and a rate of fall per mile of 58.2 feet; It has a drainage area of 109.96 square miles.

The Knapps Creek Valley is one of the most beautiful valleys to be found in the State of West Virginia. The average width of the bottom land of the Knapps Creek Valley is approximately three-fourth mile wide and is a farming section from its source high up in the Allegheny Mountain , to its conjunction with the Greenbrier River at Marlinton. Nearly all the bottom land is cleared and is in a state of cultivation from Marlinton to its source , farms and homes are located in all the branches that find their way to the Knapps Creek-Valley; The soil of the Valley is very productive especially along in the bottoms and here the soil has been carried in, and by the intermixture the fields produce abundantly nearly all the crops that is common to Pocahontas County . The soil is suitable for the timber growth of the famous white pine trees , which has been produced abundantly all over the Knapps Creek and its tributaries. The Knapps Valley was heavily timbered when the early settlers made their debut in the valley and began to clear the land and establish their homes , which appears to be about the year of 1760 .

About 1770 Moses Moore the progenitor of the largest relationship of the Moore name in Pocahontas County, came to the Knapps Creek Valley, known at that time as Ewing's Creek, and is so named in many of the old landpapers in giving the local description of the land grants; This first settler on what is now called Knapps Creek was James Ewing, he must have made settlement on the Knapps Creek about the year of 1760; Traces of the original cabin remained for years in the meadow near the old orchard contiguous to Washington Moore's present residence. The tract of land purchased from James Ewing for the consideration of two steel traps and two pounds of English Sterling, extended from from the land formerly owned by Andrew Harold to Dennis Devers gate by the road side below the Francis Dever homestead.

Besides other improvement Moses Moore, built a Mill on Mill Run, near Grady Moores home, and was the first old time water mill erected on the waters of Knapps Creek, (Michael Daugherty built a mill farther down Knapps-Creek about the same time.)

The first pioneer settlers of the Knapps Creek Valley as they appear in the records of Augusta and Bath Counties, are as follows James Ewing, Moses Moore, Timothy Mc Carty, Michael Daugherty, Michael Clark, John Sharp, John Bradshaw, Peter lightner, Joseph Carey, Abraham Devise, James Dunlop, Samuel Machum, Patrick Magrath, John McCollum, George Poage, William Rhea, Andrew Reid, ~~Stewart/Archibald~~, ~~Townsend~~ Archibald Stewart, Ezekiel Townsend, and others. The early development of Pocahontas County was made while under first Augusta County, during the Revolutionary War, and then after the formation of Bath from Augusta in the year of 1791, and thereafter till 1821 when the formation of Pocahontas County took place. When the Greenbrier Valley and the Knapps Creek Valley, and Pocahontas County in general, became a place of interest to the people of Bath County, their only route to the Little Levels, to Dumore, Greenbank, and the upper Greenbrier, then often referred to as the Upper Tract, was across the Allegheny Mountain, to the Knapps Creek Valley which was referred to as the "North-West Passage"

which was applied to the Knapps Creek gorge between Minnehaha Springs and the town of Huntersville, one of the many Indian trails that crossed the Allegheny Mountains from the Jackson River Valley crossed at Rimal, out by Minnehaha Springs, and down the Knapps Creek, passing under the Anticline, on the south side of the Creek and by the town of Huntersville, crossed Marlins Run at Marlins Bottom (now Marlinton) crossed the Greenbrier River near the Tannery, and on by the Indian Draft. In ~~1755~~ 1756 The Indians raided the Mays home in Bath County, a few miles from Bath Alum. Joseph Mays aged 13 years, his mother, an unknown white girl, and a Mrs Sloan, and her ~~infant~~ Infante were taken prisoners. and according to Historian Andrew Price during that raid they killed twelve persons wounded two, and carried off thirty-five persons as prisoners; on the second days march they crossed the Jackson River near Warwinton, Back Creek Mountain, and camped near the mouth of Little back Creek, now Mountain Grove. The third day they crossed the Allegheny Mountain came down on the Knapps Creek-Valley marched down Knapps Creek to a point about half-way between Marlinton, and Huntersville, and there went into camp for the night; This camping site of the Indians, and their captives is supposed to be some where on the lower end of the lands formerly owned by the Late J.H. Bussard; The fourth morning the Indians were on the march bright and early, but they were closely pursued by the Militia of Augusta County, and a running fight occurred down near the mouth of Knapps Creek and Marlins Run, now at Marlinton, The Indians were closely pressed, were pursued some distance up Stony Creek and the Indian Draft but could not be overtaken, It was in this raid that <sup>the</sup> child was killed at Marlins Run by the Indians and buried the same day.

It appears that all the Indian raids that occurred on the upper Jackson River and vicinity, in former Bath County and Augusta County, the trail passed over the lower Knapps Creek Valley, crossed the Greenbrier River near the site of the Tannery at Marlinton and out by the way of Stony Creek and the Indian Draft

*to be continued.*